



ERPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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T H E M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E
Y E A R E N D I N G D E C E M B E R 31 S T . 1947 .

Dr. D.B.C. Lawson, M.B., Ch.B. (January 1st - July 17th, 1947)

Dr. R.C. Macleod, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.H. & H. (July 18th
- December 31st, 1947).

ERPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1947.

The Chairman and Members of the Erpingham Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1947.

The preparation of this report has been delayed as it covers the period of office of my two predecessors. For this reason I do not feel that much more than a statistical survey can be offered.

The outstanding features of the year's work has been the transfer of duties from your part-time District Medical Officer of Health to a full-time Medical Officer of Health acting for the combined Districts of Cromer, North Walsham, Sheringham and the Erpingham Rural District. This transfer took place on July 17th, 1947.

Dr. R.C. Macleod was the first holder of this post. The appointment is combined with that of Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer and also that of Medical Officer to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Roughton. The programme of work is so arranged that the Medical Officer of Health is available in your District on an average of one half day a week.

It is necessary for me to draw your attention to the relatively small numbers of various groups of statistics which are presented. I feel that too much significance should not be given to the exact percentages or other units which may be derived from them as it will be easily appreciated that a small variation in any group of figures will cause a considerable alteration in percentage. This gives rise to fallacies in interpretation and is always likely to occur where only small numbers are involved.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Infants may be immunised free of charge either by General Practitioners or in Infant Welfare Clinics or in special sessions held in local schools. The work is progressing in the District but it is felt that a true picture is not given by the number of notifications received: probably there is a higher immunisation rate than the figures indicate owing to some cases not being notified.

Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis (commonly known as Infantile Paralysis) caused grave concern in Britain in 1947. In the District four cases were notified though, fortunately, no deaths occurred. As yet we do not know how the disease is spread and so the highest standards of general hygiene are even more necessary in case some unrecognised loophole is left as a route of infection and a risk to the general community.

Water.

The Water Supplies of the District are drawn from shallow wells with the exception of the following areas:-

<u>Holt.</u>	Own Waterworks.
<u>Mundesley.</u>	Own Waterworks.
<u>Kelling. Lower.</u>	Own works with standpipe supply.
<u>Kelling. High.</u>	Private Company but indifferent supply.
<u>Northrepps.</u>	Part private pipe lines in Crossdale Street and old village and part near to the Cromer Urban District boundary from Cromer Urban District Council.
<u>Upper Sheringham.</u>	By reservoir and by pipe line and standpipes recently erected and supplying part of the village.
<u>Cromer U.D.C.</u>	The above Council supply the Parishes of Hunton, Overstrand, Sidestrand and in part Aylmorton, Felbrigg, Northrepps, Roughton and Beeston Regis.
<u>Sheringham Gas & Water Company.</u>	Beeston Regis (part).

I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Mr. Evatt, your Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W.S. PARKER.

M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.I.H..

Medical Officer of Health.

Local Health Office,
Norwich Road,
CROMER.

Population	17,260.
Area	71,110 acres.
Number of Dwellings.	5,300.
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.6
Death Rate " " "	17.0

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	145	158	303
Illegitimate	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
	<u>154</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>321</u>

Illegitimacy rate 5.9%

Three still births occurred - all female (legitimate) infants.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	2	10
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>13</u>

Deaths in the Rural District

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
170	125	295

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary</u> *		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Cases on Register				
(a) end of 1946	54	35	16	20
(b) " " 1947	56	37	16	21

* The numbers of pulmonary tuberculosis cases registered with a few exceptions represent patients from outside the district who are accommodated at local sanatoria.

Notifications of Infectious Disease during 1947:

Poliomyelitis	4
Diphtheria	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Infectious Jaundice	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Scarlet Fever	9
Measles	10
Whooping Cough	27

Diphtheria Immunisation:

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria up to the end of 1947.
These are shown in age groups corresponding to the year in which they were born.

<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1938/42.</u>	<u>1933/37.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
9	233	198	140	728	880	2,188.

One child, a girl aged 6, was notified in 1947 as suffering from diphtheria.

Causes of Death.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	-	1
Tuberculosis	2	-	2
Syphilis	-	1	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Encephalitis	-	1	1
Cancer	25	23	48
Diabetes	-	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	14	18	32
Heart Disease	38	34	72
Other diseases of circulatory system	15	10	25
Bronchitis	5	3	8
Pneumonia	11	1	12
Other Respiratory Disease	1	2	3
Peptic Ulcer	5	-	5
Infantile Diarrhoea (Under 2)	3	-	3
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other Digestive System diseases	5	1	6
Nephritis	3	-	3
Premature Birth	2	3	5
Birth Injury	6	1	7
Suicide	2	2	4
Road Traffic accidents	2	-	2
Other violent causes of death	1	5	6
All other causes	27	19	46
	170	125	295

